



Making Tracks

Editor: Holly Berthold, *Metro Media Specialist*
Layout: Rene Parker, *Administrative Staff Assistant*

2004 Coming Events...

Concert by Carter and Connelley

**Powder Valley
Conservation Nature Center
Saturday, October 9
7 p.m.**

Reservations begin September 13

Join us for an evening of music with Carter and Connelley. This singer/songwriter guitar duo performs acoustic rock to bluegrass with spoken word interludes. Original compositions highlighting their love of the natural world make up the bulk of the writing. Every song or reading has a story, a purpose, an inspiration. Their love of the earth and family, respect for those who have gone before, and interest in Native American beliefs are evident throughout. Their CD, *Songs From The Seventh Direction* takes its title from a Lakota legend revealing the hidden location of inner strength and wisdom within each person. These are truly songs from the heart. Curt and Tom like to call it “environmental music with a message.”

CDs will be sold and an autograph session will follow the concert.

*If you would like to receive this newsletter in the mail,
please call (636) 441-4554.*



Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

October 2004

Volume 04, Number 10



We all remember singing “Those Lazy-Hazy-Crazy Days of Summer.” Memories of fishing, working in your garden, floating a Missouri stream, or just swinging in a hammock come to mind. Ahhh, those were the days! Then come school, end of vacations and the beginning of a seasonal change. Gone are the days where 95° and 100 percent humidity kept us inside or braving out to meet the heat. In its place roll in the frenzied, frosty days of fall. With fall comes a world alive with the anticipated changes that are right around the corner. Plants and animals are frantically preparing for winter, making their last stand before shutting down, disappearing or taking their own winter vacation. Let’s take a peek at what all that frenzied energy is about!

One of the pure joys of autumn is getting outside and taking a hike—and not having to worry about ticks, chiggers or spider webs across the path! When you go, keep your eyes and ears open for a whirlwind of action, vibrant displays of color and honks from the skies. As you enjoy a walk along the river, check out the cardinal flowers by the stream bank. You can’t miss their flaming red petals daring you to look their way. If you hear a slap, slap, splash, it could be a beaver, actively gathering winter food. Look for berries along the bank, their fruit boldly tempting you to pick them before the frost takes over. Don’t forget to take your fishing pole, because muskies are active this time of year!

Cutting through the forest the colors displayed by the maples, oaks and hickories amaze you. Bright orange, yellow, deep magenta and a hint of purple lead you along the trail. Chattering in the trees are squirrels, scurrying up and down, making you dizzy as they gather their winter cache of hickory nuts and acorns. Chipmunks, their fat cheeks stuffed with an equal amount of food, make you smile as they streak across the leaves and burrow into the ground. Watch out for those noisy blue jays as they fly low, gathering their fair share of acorns before they are gone, hiding them in the trees. There is a latent energy that you can feel as you take in the scene.

The Frenzied, Frosty Days of Fall

*By Patti Redel,
Outreach & Education Regional Supervisor*



Coming into the meadow, you look up as you hear the sounds of flight in the sky. Green-winged teals quack as they jostle for position on their vacation migration. Chimney swifts follow, darting here and there as they too fly by. You work your way across the field and the sound of field crickets stops you in your tracks; their loud trills fill your ears as they herald the coming of winter. Out of the corner of your eye you catch the frenzied fluttering of something orange. Grab your camera and catch late-migrating monarch butterflies feasting on the nectar from the asters for one last, quick meal before they, too, are gone.

At the end of the trail you realize just how much of nature’s magic you witnessed, and what you intuitively knew you missed. You didn’t hear the bullfrog’s horn, the timber rattlesnake’s warning rattle, or the flitting dance of ruby-throated hummingbirds because they had already left on their trip. You see, the object of the game during the frenzied, frosty days of fall is gather your food, show your colors, set your berries, migrate for a winter vacation or disappear to hibernate the winter away. So get outside and capture your memories of this busy season of change. Before you know it, the cold and cautious days of winter will be here!



2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304


For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

2

Dutch Oven Cooking

Saturday9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Adults) Have you ever cooked a meal in a Dutch oven? Join us as we learn the basics of Dutch oven cooking. Participants will prepare and cook their own lunch. (Reservations begin September 20.)



4

Seeds in Motion

Monday9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 3-6) How do seeds get from one place to another? Join us as we learn about the different types of seeds and how they move. Please bring an old, adult tube sock for seed collection. (Reservations begin September 20.)

9

Scout Discovery Table: Forest Trees

Saturday10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Scouts) Sure trees are fun to climb, but did you ever stop and take a closer look at one? We'll look at a tree's growth rings, learn to identify some common trees by their leaves and get to know our local trees a lot better. **Webelos:** Forester #3, #4; **Brownies:** Plants #2, #4; **Juniors:** Earth Connections #3, #4, #8; Science Discovery #5. (No reservations necessary.)

16

Lewis Hike

Saturday9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

(Adults) Join us for an 8.3-mile hike through the forests at the Weldon Spring Conservation Area. We will look for fall colors in the trees and shrubs. The Missouri River overlooks offer panoramic views of the floodplains and varying fall colors from the bottomland forests to the oak, hickory and maple forests on the high terrain of the river bluffs. (Reservations begin October 1.)

16

Reptile Discovery Table

Saturday10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All Ages) Are snakes slimy? Where do snakes, lizards and turtles go in the winter? What reptiles are endangered in Missouri? Do all turtles “snap”? Come and discover the answers to these questions and more about Missouri's reptiles. (No reservations necessary.)

16

Creatures of the Night

Saturday6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.


(All Ages) What do critters do at night while we are sleeping? Take a non-scary night hike to learn about Missouri's nocturnal animals. (Reservations begin October 1.)

18

Going Batty!

Monday9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 3-6) Do bats really suck your blood? Can they get tangled in your hair? Come find out the facts about these amazing and beneficial mammals. (Reservations begin October 4.)



20

Dyeing Things Naturally

Wednesday10 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 8-12) Many colors came naturally from nature. Join us to learn which plants, flowers and nuts can be used to make natural dyes. Find out what plant makes what color and see for yourself by dyeing a t-shirt. (Reservations begin October 6.)

Busch Volunteer Milestones	
Jim Goessling.....	3000 hours
Carol Price.....	1250 hours
Ed Leutwiler.....	1000 hours

Busch Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 300-1953 ext. 251
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch

PUBLIC RANGE HOURS

May 1 through September 30

Friday through Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Tuesday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

October 1 through April 30

Friday through Tuesday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

These hours are subject to change.
Please call the range for updated hours.

CLOSED DAYS

Wednesday and Thursday
All State Holidays

RANGE FEES

Rifle/Pistol Range: \$3 per hour/per booth
Trap/Skeet Fields: \$3 per round/per person
Shotgun Patterning Range: \$2 per person for every set of three turkey targets
Special Use Permits: Please call to inquire.
Note: Peak usage: 1 hour maximum per permit.
Eye and ear protection is required on all ranges.

Jay Henges Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road
High Ridge, MO 63049
(636) 938-9548
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges

PUBLIC RANGE HOURS

May 1 through August 31

Wednesday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

September 1 through April 30

Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CLOSED DAYS

Monday and Tuesday
All State Holidays

RANGE FEES

Pistol/Rifle Range: \$3 per hour/per booth
Trap Range: \$3 per 25 targets/per person
Shotgun Patterning Range: \$2 per hour/per person
Archery Range: \$3 per hour/per person
Range Special Use Permit: \$20 per hour/per permit
Building Use Permit: Inquire
NOTE: Peak usage: 1 hour maximum per permit
Trap Ranges: No shot size larger than 7 ½
Pistol/Rifle Range: No center fire ammunition large than .50 caliber
Ear & eye protection is required on all ranges.

Throughout October, enjoy outdoor shooting sports at our ranges.

Archery *Rifle/Pistol* Shotgun Patterning* Trap/Skeet

Ranges are closed on state holidays and for special events.

For program information, check our website: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

All Month

Scout Discovery Table:
State Symbols

(Self-guided exhibit)

(Scouts) Visit our self-guided display and learn about Missouri’s state symbols that are connected to the out-of-doors. **Wolves:** Your Flag Achievement 2d; **Bears:** What Makes America Special? Achievement #3e; **Juniors:** Wildlife #1. (No reservations necessary.)

2

Exploring
Valley View Glades Natural Area

Saturday9 a.m. – Noon

(All Ages) Join us for a 2.5-mile hike of moderate difficulty at the Valley View Glades Natural Area, off Hwy. B in Jefferson County. We will explore the unique plants and animals of the glades and learn what characteristics make this fragile habitat very distinctive to this area of Missouri. (Reservations begin September 20.)

2

Discovery Table: Reptiles

Saturday10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All Ages) Are snakes slimy? Where do snakes, lizards and turtles go in the winter? What reptiles are endangered in Missouri? Do all turtles “snap”? Come discover the answers to these questions and more about Missouri’s reptiles. (No reservations required.)

10

Autumn Leaves

Sunday2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Come join us as we explore the magnificent season of autumn. We will learn about why leaves change colors, take a short hike to gather pretty leaves and then return to the education center with our treasures to create a fun fall craft. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin September 27.)

12

Conservation Frontiers:
Build a Bat House #64

Tuesday2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

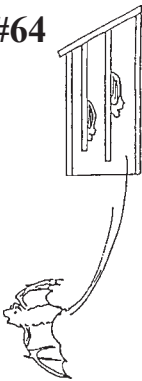
(Ages 7-18) Come learn about the mysterious lives of Missouri bats and build a bat house to attract them to your home. All materials provided. (Reservations begin September 29.)

12

Conservation Frontiers:
Build a Bat House #64

Tuesday6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

(All Ages) Come learn about the mysterious lives of Missouri bats and build a bat house to attract them to your home. All materials provided. (Reservations begin September 29.)



16

Ladybugs

Saturday1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Learn why ladybugs may invade your home – but don’t despair; they are great for your gardens! We will build a ladybug box. (One per family.) (Reservations begin October 4.)

28

Wild about Persimmons

Thursday10 a.m. – Noon

(Families) It’s that time of year when persimmons are ripe. From mouth-watering cakes and cookies to smooth-spreading butter, so much can be made with this delectable fruit! Join us as we delve into persimmons and try our hand at making a few scrumptious treats. (Reservations begin October 14.)

30

Bird Feeders

Saturday10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(All Ages) Learn which seeds attract which birds, then build a feeder (one per family) to take home to try out your new knowledge. Please bring a hammer. (Reservations begin October 12.)

Rockwoods Volunteer
Milestones

Bob Ziegler.....	300 hours
Jean Favara.....	200 hours
Joe Hajek.....	100 hours

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

5

Retiree River Ramble

Tuesday8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

(Ages 60 & over) Calling all folks over 60! Enjoy a leisurely hike with other seniors to discover the unique wonders found at Columbia Bottom. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. We will look at butterflies, plants, birds and everything in between. This month we will be looking for the beginning of the fall colors and listening for the trill of field crickets. (Reservations begin September 22.)

6

Adopt a Tree

Wednesday10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7-12) Make friends with a tree! Discover its secrets as you get up close and personal with it. You will make a “tree log” to record the special events in the life of your tree friend throughout the year. We will also spend time observing and learning important things about the trees found at Columbia Bottom. (Reservations begin September 22.)



16

Smokey Bear

Saturday9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 3-6) Do you know who says “Only you can prevent forest fires”? That’s right, Smokey Bear. Discover how forest rangers and you can help Smokey Bear protect the trees from forest fires. There will even be a special appearance by Smokey Bear! (Reservations begin October 1.)



Columbia Bottom
Volunteer Milestones

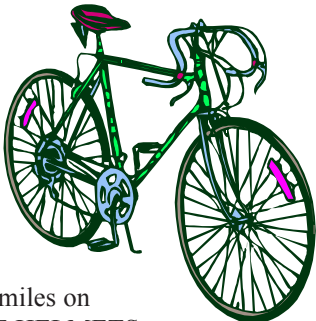
Pat Behle.....	200 hours
Lena Dowers.....	200 hours
Liz Kuehnle.....	100 hours
David Petree.....	100 hours
Kathy Schroeder.....	100 hours
GT Templeton.....	100 hours
Craig Vincent.....	100 hours

23

Bike Hike

Saturday9 a.m. – Noon

(All Ages) Discover the treasure of Columbia Bottom as we take a leisurely 10-mile bike ride through the area. Participants will find out about the mosaic of floodplain habitats that make up Columbia Bottom and view the beautiful fall colors. To participate, you must be able to bike a total of 10 miles: 5 miles on a level paved road plus another 5 miles on the gravel levee trail. BIKE HELMETS ARE REQUIRED. (Reservations begin October 8.)



28

Along Came a Spider

Thursday9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 3-6) Do you like spiders? What makes them so special? Are they helpful? Come explore the wonderful world of spiders as we discover the answers to these questions and more. With more than 300 different kinds of spiders living in Missouri, it’s a big world to discover. This program includes a craft, nature hike and story. (Reservations begin October 14.)

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122


For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

2

The Wild Singer

Saturday10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(All Ages) Have you heard “the wild” singers in your neighborhood? Learn more about coyotes in the St. Louis area. (Reservations begin September 17.)



2

Scout Discovery Table: Poisonous Things

Saturday10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Scouts) What’s the difference between “venomous” and “poisonous”? Discover the answer to this question and others you may have about poisonous things. **Wolves** can work on Outdoor Adventure: Elective 18g. **Webelos** can work on Outdoor Group: Naturalist #6. **Junior Girl Scouts** can work on Let’s Get Outdoors: Wildlife #5; Plants and Animals #9. All are welcome. (No reservations necessary.)

4

Hiking the Hickory Ridge Trail

Monday1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Adults) Let’s hike the Hickory Ridge Trail to see what birds, wildflowers and trees we might identify. (Reservations begin September 20.)

7

Grow, Oak, Grow!

Thursday10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3-6) Students explore how a tree grows through mimicry, song and craft with staff Naturalist Colleen Scott. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin September 22.)

7

HOMESCHOOL Forest Ecology

Thursday10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7-12) Students explore tree growth stages indoors before practicing identification techniques with staff Naturalist David Bradford. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin September 22.)

16

Ask the Naturalist

Saturday10:30 a.m. – Noon & 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Have you seen, heard or found a critter or a natural object and can’t figure out what it could be? Well then, just ask staff Naturalist Pat Steudeman! (No reservations necessary.)

18

Hiking the Broken Ridge Trail

Monday1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Adults) Let’s hike the Broken Ridge Trail to see what wildflowers, trees and birds we might identify. (Reservations begin October 2.)

23

Square Foot Investigators

Saturday9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(All Ages) Discover what can be found in a square foot of forest. We will work in teams. (Reservations begin October 8.)

23

Lewis & Clark Plant Discovery Table

Saturday10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All Ages) Visit our table to learn about the plant adventures of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. (No reservations necessary.)

23

The Art of Nature Journaling

Saturday10 a.m. – Noon

(Adults) Nature journals help us not only improve our artistic skills but to observe, appreciate and understand more about the natural world. Join Interpretive Programs Supervisor Janice Starke to try various drawing techniques while exploring the woods of Powder Valley. If you already keep a journal, bring it. If not, one will be provided. Rain or shine, so dress for the weather! (Reservations begin on October 8.)

23

What’s Hiding in Your Habitat! Series Part I: What’s Hiding in Your Bedroom!

Saturday1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

(All Ages) We think of habitats as being places outside of our homes—the “wild” areas where “wildlife” live. There are many habitats right in your own home. Join staff Naturalist Catherine McGrane in the first of the series as she explores the mini-habitats within your bedroom. What you don’t see may surprise you. Bring your dust bunnies to explore under the microscope. (Reservations begin October 8.)


28

Breakfast With The Birds

Thursday7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

(Ages 12 & up) Have sweet rolls and coffee or juice indoors while watching birds from our wildlife viewing area with Naturalist David Bradford. Then, enjoy a casual bird walk on our trails. Binoculars and field guides provided for those who don’t have their own. (Reservations begin October 14.)





Concert by
Carter and Connelley

Powder Valley
Conservation Nature Center

Saturday, October 9
7 p.m.

Reservations begin September 13

Join us for an evening of music with Carter and Connelley. This singer/songwriter guitar duo performs acoustic rock to bluegrass with spoken word interludes. Original compositions highlighting their love of the natural world make up the bulk of the writing. Every song or reading has a story, a purpose, an inspiration. Their love of the earth and family, respect for those who have gone before, and interest in Native American beliefs are evident throughout. Their CD, *Songs From The Seventh Direction*, takes its title from a Lakota legend revealing the hidden location of inner strength and wisdom within each person. These are truly songs from the heart. Curt and Tom like to call it “environmental music with a message.”

CDs will be sold and an autograph session will follow the concert.

PROGRAM HELD AT HENGES

Call Powder Valley at (314) 301-1500 to make reservations.

Name That Tree!

Monday, October 4
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.


(Age 7 - 12) Can you name that tree? Learn how to identify some of Missouri’s trees and their importance to humans and animals. We will make leaf and bark rubbings while exploring Jay Henges Shooting Range. (Reservations begin September 20.)

Attention:

Various sections of the exhibits at Powder Valley will be closed from October 18 – 29 for cleaning and repair. Please pardon the inconvenience.

October Hallway Exhibit
Society of
Independent Artists

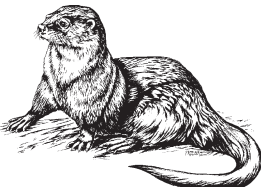
October 9 – October 30



Otter Mania!

Friday, November 5
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Otters are back in Missouri and now at Powder Valley! Please join us for a visit by Glenn Chambers, Biologist and Cinematographer. Glenn will be bringing a pair of live otters to demonstrate their unique characteristics. His work with otters has allowed us in Missouri to learn a lot about their habits and needs. Glenn will talk about the reintroduction program’s success and answer your questions! (Reservations begin October 22.)



Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones			
Kathy Anderson.....	100 hours	Maury Frein.....	600 hours
Etta May Eagle.....	2500 hours	Mary Hittler.....	500 hours